Government Volunteers and the

By Maxine Cheshire

Two White House painters showed up with buckets and brushes last week to refurbish the interior of the $125,000 house which Julie and David Eisenhower are renting from family friend Charles G. (Bebe) Rebozo.

The painters, part of the regular maintenance crew which works full-time at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, were identified by a government security man assigned to guard the property.

A spokesman for First Lady Pat Nixon's office confirmed that the two men are White House employees, but said that they were doing the job on their own time.

"They took annual leave," said press secretary Helen Smith. "They volunteered to do it on their own time when they heard we needed someone. They even went out and bought the paint."

The Executive Protection Service, the Secret Service branch charged with protecting government buildings and the 111 diplomatic missions in Washington, is responsible for protecting the house.

Some of the young Eisenhowers' neighbors have already discovered that having Uncle Sam so involved in the community can be a mixed blessing.

The underground sprinkling system that waters Julie and David's grass automatically sprung a leak recently. The water was flooding the property across the street where construction of an expensive house is in progress. Complaints had to go through bureaucratic channels and five days elapsed before the torrent subsided.

The Eisenhowers are almost ready to move into the house. Mrs. Nixon's New York decorator, Sarah Jackson Doyle, who did the family quarters upstairs at the White House, is supervising the interior design.

Corrados Inc., the Washington firm which now does most of the White House upholstery, is rushing sofas and chairs through their workrooms and has made

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Refurbishing of a New Home

draperies for the living room, the library and the bedroom.

Potpourri

Presidential assistant William L. Safire, who goes to The New York Times as a conservatively-oriented columnist next month, has sold his White House memoirs to the William Morrow publishing firm for a $200,000 advance . . . California Sen. John Tunney took actress Elizabeth Ashley to Nathan's in Georgetown after her "Enchanted" performance at the Eisenhower Theater the other night. They nibbled cold artichokes and sipped chilled white wine. They left the restaurant, skipped off down M street like children . . . President Nixon's staff has not said yet that he is definitely coming, but the National Gallery planners are expecting him to put in an appearance when the exhibit of Soviet art opens there next week.

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